

June-December 2014

4th Infantry Regiment Veterans Association
The Warrior - Official Publication of the Association



The Warrior



Doug DePew, Editor

President's Message

The 4th Infantry Regiment continues to raise the standard for others to follow as we have seen this past year with our Active Duty Battalions



achieving so much. 1st Battalion once again has led the way as the OPFOR in challenging NATO forces in the Joint Military Readiness Center (JMRC) with the honed Warrior Spirit keen to the sharp edge needed to make them battle ready to face the challenges of the future. The 2nd Battalion once again returns from a successful deployment in Afghanistan's RC-East, as part of the ever needed Advise and Assist Mission to prepare the Afghanistan Security Forces to assume the security mission for their Nation's future.

The Regiment came together under a non-profit, Veteran-based, fraternal organization to perpetuate the lineage and historical experiences of soldiers and veterans of the each battalion in 2013. Formed by a small group of Active Duty Soldiers and Veterans from the Regiment, we saw a need to come together for a Reunion in 2014. This Reunion had many key events to include the inducting of our first Distinguished Members of the Regiment Program and our first Honorary Colonel of the Regiment. It also had the distinction of being the first time we had an opportunity as representatives from each Battalion in



the Regiment to gather to celebrate our history, more importantly events that occurred since 2001. Another key event we had was "Lunch with a Warrior", where we were given the opportunity to have lunch with the Warriors from the 2nd Battalion and socialize with them in the middle of their busy day. Thank you Warrior 7 for this it meant a lot to us old soldiers.

We also had a grand Cajun themed luncheon with Hannah Wideman and two soldiers cooking. We had games from Chinese checkers to a tomahawk throwing contest. Congratulations to Maurice Tomblin D Co 2-4 IN for winning grand prize in the tomahawk throwing contest a custom made tomahawk from 2Hawks. We had numerous door prizes to include the main prize, an engraved, 1-liter Glass Beer Boot, congratulations to SSG Kossman HHC 2-4 IN for winning this very nice prize. We also had custom labeled wine from Maximilian Wines in California.



Sponsoring our events were USAA, Fox's Pizza Den, Tobasco, Southwest Beverage Company, and Comfort Suites. We also thanks KVVU of Leesville for advertising our event daily and the Vernon Parish Tourism Commission for their support. I also want to thank the New Llano Mayor and City Council for their hospitality. I also want to thank the men and women of the

Patriot Inn that prepared an awesome meal for us during our "Lunch with a Warrior" event.

I especially want to thank the Soldiers, NCOs and Officers of the 2nd Battalion for their support in hosting us old Warriors. We had fun making new friends and refreshing old memories. We are looking forward to future events with the Battalions. Next year, join us in Bushnell, Florida January 3-4 2015, for the Dade Massacre Re-enactment Events, Dade State Park. For more information visit www.fourthininfantry.org.



Our membership has grown from its original 4 members to 37 members this year. We look forward to another year of growth, there are positive advantages to being part of the Association as well as this time honored tradition. For more information contact 4thinrgtwarriors@gmail.com or call Richard Wideman at 337-424-1885/2120.

Our next major project is the 4th Infantry Regiment Memorial to be placed at the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning, GA in 2019. Our goal is \$24,000 and we well on our way. More information to follow on organizing fundraisers.

This Association's goals are centered around the Regiment and the Soldiers that are serving and have served as well as their families. Our mission statement is clear, "The 4th Infantry Regiment Veterans' Association is organized to provide opportunities for Soldiers to include Non-Commissioned Officers, Commissioned Officers, Warrant Officers of Active Duty Units and their Families, Veterans and their Families, Survivors of Deceased Members of the Regiment, Descendants of Veterans of the Regiment, Cadets, and Students, to unite in self-less service to the Regiment, the United States Army, and our Nation through the ideals set forth in the Preamble to the Constitution and bylaws of the 4th Infantry Regiment Veterans Association:

1. To foster patriotism, esprit de corps and loyalty to the 4th Infantry Regiment
2. To foster and strengthen associations and friendships formed during service with the 4th Infantry Regiment
3. To honor the 4th Infantry Regiment Dead
4. To encourage a close and cooperative alliance with the active duty units of the 4th Infantry Regiment
5. To preserve the history of the 4th Infantry Regiment for future generations through written, pictorial, or recorded recollections of association members
6. To support the Government of the United States and its Armed Forces; and to give to them, in peace and war, the devotion and service expected of us as members of its armed forces.

We do plan to open two chapters of the Association since our Battalions are split by geography. One for the CONUS based unit(s) and the other for the OCONUS based unit(s). The purpose to provide a link between the Battalions and the Regiment. More to follow on this soon.

The Association is need of volunteers, if you are interested in continuing to serve by being part of the Association contact Richard Wideman, 4thinrgtwarriors@gmail.com.

WARRIORS!

Richard Wideman, President

In Memoriam



Col. Clifton A. Ripperger III, U.S. Army, Ret. (Age 65)

On Wednesday, June 11, 2014, Clif passed away at The Washington Home & Community Hospice in Washington, DC, surrounded by his family. Clif, or Carth, as his family knew him, was born in Roslyn, New York on June 21, 1948. He spent his childhood and adolescence on his Grandparents' farm in Andes,

New York, and in Orlando and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. He was a 1966 graduate of Lakeview High School, where he was a member of the track and football teams. Clif spent time working on tugboats and served in the U.S. Merchant Marine before enlisting in the U.S. Army in 1969. Although he missed his flight to Ft. Jackson, SC to enter Basic Training, he quickly made up for it and was selected for Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, GA. Clif went on to study Greek at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, CA and completed Special Forces Training at Ft. Bragg, NC. He earned his undergraduate degree from Columbus College and graduate degree in International Affairs from American University. Among his Infantry command and staff positions during his more than 25 years of active service were Assistant Professor (Social Sciences Department) at The United States Military Academy in West Point, NY, Executive Officer of the 1st Battalion, 27th Infantry "Wolfhounds" at Schofield Barracks, HI, and Commander of the 2/4 Infantry Battalion, 56th Field Artillery Command (Pershing) in Neu-Ulm, Germany. Clif's last assignment was in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, where he oversaw Defense Department continuity programs. After his retirement in 1995, he continued supporting similar programs as a contractor for OSD, the Department of the Air Force, and for the last 14 years, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. During that time, he authored many key continuity-related plans, designed major exercises evaluating the Department's continuity readiness, and was considered a continuity expert providing advice during a number of national security events. During 9/11, he advised senior DoD leaders on continuity and evacuation actions and supported key operations in the ensuing weeks and months. Over the years, Clif enjoyed playing guitar, drawing, winning at board games or chess, model trains, model shipbuilding, crossword puzzles, and searching for the perfect Christmas tree. He liked his steak rare and his Budweiser cold. He will be remembered as a generous and loving father, grandfather (Pop Pop), soldier, scholar, mentor, and friend to many.

Bavarian Unit Deactivates

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — The 69th Signal Battalion and Dragon Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, both fixtures of the Bavarian military community for decades, held separate deactivation ceremonies Friday.

The 69th Signal Battalion cased its colors at the Grafenwöhr garrison, while Dragon Company — the armored element of 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment — held its closing ceremony at the training facilities at the Hohenfels training post.

The shuttering of Dragon Company means the end of a unit that has existed in Europe since 1990, as well as the loss of 185 soldiers from the Hohenfels-based opposing forces team. Among those soldiers are 19 M-1 Abrams tank operators, whose departure will have an immediate impact on the regiment, said 1-4 commander Lt. Col. Barry Carlson.

"We as a battalion, each and every time we go into the box, we're going to miss

those guys because of their understanding of combined arms maneuver and their ability to maneuver within the terrain of Hohenfels," Carlson said. "It's going to be a degradation of OpFor capabilities that will take time to overcome."

Carlson said the tank operators will be supplanted by operators from their multinational partners and from the infantry ranks.

By Michael S. Darnell
Stars and Stripes

Published: June 27, 2014



Soldiers from D 1-4 Infantry casing their colors during the deactivation ceremony at Hohenfels

Training Center on June 27, 2014.
CALEB BARRIEAU/U. S. ARMY

Message From 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment

My name is LTC Barry Carlson, and I have had the honor to be the Battalion Commander for the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment since July 2013. In the little over a year I have been in the unit, I have seen the Soldiers of the "Warrior Battalion" demonstrate time and time again why the American Soldier is the most respected profession on earth. Representing the American people, my fellow "Warriors" have not only been great ambassadors with daily interactions with our German hosts, but also successfully working with our multinational partners. We have had the pleasure of working alongside of a Norwegian Battalion and a Romanian Battalion on two different Decisive Action Training Environment (DATE) rotations while also having the chance to work with other nations on smaller rotations. One of our most highly visible rotational support included supporting the United Nation's Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in which groups of OPCW scientists had come to Hohenfels to experience and train for what they may encounter while doing their duties in Syria. I also had the bittersweet job of overseeing the de-activation of our "Dragon Company", US Army Europe's last tank com-



pany, in a casing ceremony in June 2014. The de-activation of Dragon Company is just one of many changes our Battalion is currently undergoing while we conduct a change to our organizational structure. We will go from a Battalion of three line infantry companies, one tank company, and a headquarters company to a Battalion of only two line infantry companies, one weapons company, and one headquarters company. The change will allow the Warrior Battalion to work more closely with our multinational partners and integrate their tank capabilities more effectively in combined arms maneuver training. With unrest in the Ukraine and the troubles in Iraq, it is as important as ever to relentlessly pursue strong bonds with our multinational partners. In the upcoming year, my plan is continue to forge secure affiliation with our allies while simultaneously training rotational units who come to Hohenfels for future combat operations in Afghanistan while preparing American and Allied Soldiers for the next threat.

BARRY R. CARLSON
LTC IN
Commanding



4th Infantry Regiment Veteran's Association Reunion

FORT POLK, La. -- For over 200 years the 4th Infantry Regiment has protected America from enemies both foreign and domestic. It was formed January 1812 to fight the Indian Wars, and elements of the Warrior Regiment, to include 2nd Battalion, 4th Inf. Reg., currently with 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, have fought in every major war the United States was part of including the most recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The 4th Infantry Regiment Veteran's Association held its first reunion at the home of 2nd Battalion at Fort Polk, La., June 4 -- 7, 2014. During the four day reunion there was a welcome party, state of the regiment brief, awards ceremony, BBQ, good times, and memories.

"This reunion is about bringing together or connecting if you will, former and current Soldiers that have served in the 4th Infantry Regiment. 2nd Bn. is the only battalion in the regiment that is currently stationed in the United States, and that makes 2nd Bn., 4th Inf. Reg. the senior battalion in the Regiment," said retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Frank Sturek, the honorary Colonel of 4th Inf. Reg..

Throughout its proud history, the Warrior Regiment fought in many notable battles like the Mexican-American War's Battle of Monterey. The 4th Inf. Reg. fought at some of the most important and bloodiest battles in the Civil War: the Second Battle of Bull Run, Antietam, Gettysburg, Spotsylvania, and Appomattox.

During World War I, the regiment distinguished itself by earning the French Croix de Guerre for its efforts in the Third Battle of the Aisne, the battle of St. Mihiel, and Meuss-Argonne offensives where the regiment lost 80% of its men.

During World War II the regiment successfully repelled the Japanese from the Alaska Territory's Aleutian Islands after five days of heavy fighting. Parts of the regiment were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for their actions in the Alaska Territory.

Bridging the past with the future played an important role at the reunion. Some veterans took the time to educate 2nd Bn. Soldiers about their unit's past in a not so formal setting.

"There was a lot of camaraderie between the veterans and the current Soldiers. I was happy that a bunch of Joes came out to the reunion. With this many Soldiers here, the 4th Infantry Regiment Veterans Association can raise a bunch of money to help the Soldiers, said Spc. Kenneth Tomblin, infantryman, Company D, 2nd Bn., 4th Inf Reg., 4th BCT, 10 Mtn. Div. from Tulia, Texas. "This reunion is something that I look forward to doing again."

The 4th Infantry Regiment Veterans Association raises money throughout the year to support regiment Soldiers and veterans around the world.

"The association is very active in supporting the battalions, not only 2nd Bn. here at Fort Polk, they also support 1st Bn. Soldiers, located in Hohenfels, Germany. While we were deployed, they were very proactive in putting together care packages and writing us letters," said Capt. Michael Hruska, commander, Headquarters Company, 2nd Bn, 4th Inf Reg, 4th BCT, 10 Mtn. Div.

By U.S. Army SGT David Edge
June 23, 2014

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Message From 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment

Dear 4th Infantry Regiment Members,

Greetings from the 2nd Battalion and Fort Polk! As the new command team, CSM Casanova and myself would like to thank the Regimental Association for their efforts and interaction with the Battalion. We are very proud to be a part of this Regiment and it's long and storied history.

The first ever Regimental Association reunion was a huge success and I was honored to meet and spend some time with the great veterans of this regiment, as well as induct the first Honorary Colonel of the Regiment (HCOR Frank Sturek) and many others into the Distinguished Member of the Regiment (DMOR) rolls. The events were well planned and the Soldiers especially enjoyed the "Warrior" events -- like the tomahawk throw. Among the distinguished members of this Regiment - the Generals, Colonels and CSMs - there are the regular line Soldiers that make our Army great. One of those is Doug Depew, a published author of several books, one "Memoirs of a Tower Rat", is about his time in Germany in 2-4 Infantry. It is a great read and I recommend it to any that want to know what it was like to be a Soldier in that era. The Regimental association has been active in support of the Battalion and regularly participates in our Battalion newcomers brief and Family Readiness Steering Committee meetings. Regimental Association President, Mr. Wideman, recently assisted the Battalion in researching the history of the 1959 Silver punchbowl in the battalion trophy case and it has now been "recalled" into service for a monthly punchbowl ceremony -- adding our proud history to even the spouse events. The Battalion recently made several

proud accomplishments: FT. Polk Combatives Champions, 10th Mountain Division Combatives Champs, 10th Mountain 10K and ASAP 5K race top 3, Army Birthday cake competition winners, the post push-up and pull up competition champs as well as many others that space do not permit me to include. We are very proud of all the Warriors and their families and the association for their accomplishments and support!

We have a great relationship with the association and hope to make it even stronger in the future through interaction with our Regimental association members and veterans. We are now moving into our training cycle and will be doing the coveted Expert Infantryman's Badge (EIB) Test in late July and early August. 8 August is the 12 mile road march day and award presentation at 0900 on Mountain Field. We invite any members or veterans to be a part of this coveted ceremony. Following EIB, we will move into our bread and butter as infantrymen, the squad live fire certification. Over the course of August and early September, every squad in the battalion will certify on a maneuver range. In November the battalion will work with the 101st Aviation Brigade as the maneuver forces in a JRTC rotation. This is a great training opportunity for the battalion and we look forward to working with the Screaming Eagles again. In December, the battalion will have our first combatives quarterly championship. Every company will provide a fighter for all five weight classes and through a series of matches, the champ for each weight class will be crowned. Again, members and veterans are encouraged to attend. Also in December, in anticipation of the

upcoming shopping season, the newly formed battalion hand to hand combat demonstration team and Warrior 6 will host a "spouse self-defense seminar" free of charge. Member spouses are welcome and invited to attend, details to follow on time and location here at FT. Polk. The staff and spouses are planning the Christmas Ball sometime in the first two weeks of December, it will be a great event and we look forward to a strong Association presence. Details on the Christmas Ball and self defense seminar will be disseminated through association channels, when solidified.

In closing, CSM Casanova and I consider it a true privilege and honor to be given the responsibility and obligation to lead the Soldiers of this battalion as well as be a part of this Regimental association. It is truly humbling when you look back over the course of our Regimental history some of the accomplishments and leaders that have emerged from our ranks. I am confident that the Soldiers of the present day battalion will add to this illustrious history. Please feel free to contact me or CSM Casanova at any time. We look forward to future Regimental Association collaboration with the Warriors of 2nd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade, 10th Mountain Division!
Climb to Glory!
Patriots!
Warriors!
LTC Mark S. Leslie (Warrior 6)
CSM Jovito Casanova (Warrior 7)

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We are on the Web!
www.fourthininfantryregiment.org

Planned Future Association Activities

It was decided by the membership at the reunion to hold a full scale reunion every three years until membership grows large enough to support an annual reunion. Annual Warrior Rendezvous are planned for the other years to give members a chance to gather. These will be scheduled to coincide with historical events from the regiment's history. Here are the current plans:

- **2015: Warrior Rendezvous in Bushnell, Florida for the Dade Massacre Re-enactment**
- **2016: Warrior Rendezvous in Brownsville, Texas for the Palo Alto Battlefield Re-enactment**
- **2017: National Reunion in Kansas City, Missouri at the National WW-I Museum**

FORT POLK, La. – Soldiers from 4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division participated in the

Push Up for Charity event at Leesville High School's Wampus Cat Stadium on July 26, 2014. The six teams from the Patriot Brigade did a combined 20,792 pushups raising \$2,500 for the Boot Campaign that helps wounded warriors around the country. (Photo by Sgt. David Edge; 4th BCT, 10th MTN DIV Public Affairs)



Historical Preservation

It is our sincere desire as a Regimental Association to preserve the history of this Regiment. We should all think about preserving the historic records of the 4th Infantry Regiment for future generations. If everyone would write down a short biography of their time in the 4th Infantry Regiment, along with any personal stories or recollections, it would help immensely. High quality scans of your photographs would also be a great addition to our records. At some point in the future, we would like to build a comprehensive history. Make your story part of it. Please send to the association at 4thinrgtwarriors@gmail.com or P.O. Box 3773 Fort Polk, LA 71459.

Volunteers

As always the Association is looking for a "Few Good Men" to volunteer their time to various Association needs and projects. The men of an association are the lifeblood of the organization and without a cohesive effort we'll always fall short of an expected standard. Please contact me if you are interested in helping in any way at 4thinrgtwarriors@gmail.com.

2014 Distinguished Member of the Regiment Recipients

The Distinguished Member of the Regiment Program is a time honored tradition for the Regiment. Honoring those Soldiers and other Distinguished Persons that have served the Regiment or have in some way sought to perpetuate the Regiment's history. The program is governed by AR 600-82 The U.S. Army Regimental System, Chapter 5, Regimental and Corps Enhancements.



The 2014 Distinguished Members of the Regiment are:

- **LTG(retired) Robert F. Foley CDR 1-4 IN**
- **COL(retired) Robert "Tex" Turner CDR 1-4 IN**
- **COL Hugh Perry CDR HHC 2-4 IN**
- **COL Thomas Rickard CDR 2-4 IN**
- **COL Dan Kelley CDR 3-4 IN**
- **COL(retired) Kurtis Meyer**
- **LTC(retired) Frank Sturek CDR 2-4 IN and Honorary Colonel of the Regiment**
- **LTC Paul Cunningham CDR 2-4 IN**
- **CSM Thilo Hendricks CSM 1-4 IN**
- **CSM Alan Michaud CSM 2-4 IN**
- **CSM Maurice Jackson CSM 3-4 IN**
- **Doug Depew Writer**
- **Phil Logan Historian**